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SERVING THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1964

Then and Now: Neighbors Planning Bernal's Future

By Joseph Smooke

Land use and community planning. These are two concepts that only come together through activism and the understanding that who controls land and decisions about how land is used will cause profound and direct effects on our daily perception of our quality of life. From our landscaped steps to the hilltop park, from the single family homes to the vibrant commercial/ residential streets of Cortland and Mission, Bernal Heights is a unique neighborhood. But land use is never static. Over time, people's needs change, and the decisions of the past are forgotten. But, if we come together as a community to plan for the future, create a vision that the City adopts, then our careful considerations will be written into a Plan that helps to guide developers just as the Bernal Heights community has done at least since 1965.

A Bernal leader, Greta Van Praag, led the fight against developers and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to preserve the open space at the top of Bernal Hill. The struggle lasted for years starting in 1965, and ending in June, 1973 with the City transferring the hill top land from DPW to the Department of Recreation and Parks, and having the City agree to plant trees around the communications towers at the top of the open space.

1965 was also a big year for the Bernal Heights Association (BHA), Northwest Area which eventually became the Northwest Bernal Block Club (NWBBC). In 1965, the SF Redevelopment Agency proposed "clearance and redevelopment of the rim of Bernal Heights" in the Little Report on Community Renewal. The Little Report further recommended, "during the next 6 years, the Redevelopment Agency initiate a survey and planning application leading to the redevelopment of the rim of Bernal Heights". According to the Elsie St Plan, "The Bernal Heights Association, Northwest Area, fought back and won: 'Are we truly a slum that must be leveled and replaced?'"

So, instead of organizing to rebuff outside threats,

Bernal residents decided to create their own vision, their own Plan. "The Plan grew out of the realization that the neighborhood [Bernal Heights] was faced with the threat of drastic alteration of its character and extensive dislocation of its residents. The delicate architectural scale and character of the existing houses and the presence of large parcels of undeveloped land left the area particularly vulnerable to the long-term negative effects of un-planned development. The City Planning process offered the neighborhood little protection or assistance. Residents realized the need to step in and influence the course of future development."



photo by Ron Morgan

Amit Ghosh, Director of Long Range Planning for the City, addresses attendees at the first South of Chavez Mission St Community Planning Project (SCMCPP) meeting, held February 17th. The SCMCPP, sponsored by the BHNC and funded by the Surdna Foundation, is a community-based planning process intended to give residents, merchants, and other stakeholders, a voice in the future of the Mission corridor between Cesar Chavez and Randall Street. The next meeting will be on April 23rd, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, at the CareerLink Annex at 3119 Mission St (next to Blockbuster) featuring representatives from MUNI and BART.

Is this quote from the current South of Chavez Mission St Community Planning? Although over 50 people attended the first meeting on February 12, and over 20 on March 18, this quote is from 25 years ago from the "Elsie St Plan" created in April, 1978 by "over 200 neighborhood residents working in conjunction with architectural and planning consultants". The neighbors, mostly members of the Northwest

Bernal Block Club, as it was known at that time, sought to address issues of architectural character, and "the inability of low and moderate income people to continue to live in San Francisco, and the destruction of ethnically integrated working class neighborhoods like Bernal Heights".

So, addressing land use issues as a community through activism and inclusion has a long history in Bernal Heights. The Elsie St Plan concludes with "The NWBBC has mapped out a program for direct community involvement in the development of the 100 Block of Elsie St. This program includes overseeing the implementation of the Street Improvement/ Open Space Plan, instituting the Building Criteria and participating in the development of housing for low and moderate income people." The Elsie St Plan goes on to declare, "We recommend the formation of a non-profit community development corporation with tax-exempt status. This step is a prerequisite of active neighborhood participation in development." Out of this recommendation 25 years ago was created the Bernal Heights Community Foundation, later called the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

The South of Chavez Mission St Community Planning project continues in this spirit of Bernal Heights pride, activism and inclusion. We are proud of the legacy that created the Neighborhood Center which has since developed 196 units of affordable housing (with more in the pipeline), and is now guiding the creation of a community vision for the future of our vitally important stretch of Mission St. in partnership with various City and regional agencies.

Be a part of the unique legacy of Bernal Heights. Come, learn, and express your views to each other and directly to City representatives as we construct together a vision for the future development of Mission St. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 23 at 6:30 pm at the Career Link Center at 3119 Mission St. For more information, check us out at www.bhnc.org See you there!! ■

Bayshore Home Depot Faces Environmental Hurdle

By Ron Morgan

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Home Depot megastore development at Bayshore and Cortland was finally released to the public on Saturday, March 29th, after over a year of study and review by Home Depot's paid consultants and the Planning Department. Although many Bernal residents mistakenly believe that Home Depot has already received approval to build a Big Box store in San Francisco, the retail giant must still pass the significant hurdle of environmental review. The DEIR is now subject to public scrutiny and comment under the guidelines and schedules of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Supporters of the development contend that the DEIR states Home Depot will have "moderate" impacts on Bernal

Heights, and that these impacts may be mitigated with minimal changes, such as changes in traffic signal cycles and the addition of long left-turn lanes on Bayshore and at the intersection of Mission and Cortland. Bernal resident Susan Hershey, who lives on Cortland and received a copy of the DEIR, has a different take. "The analysis of the traffic data shows serious impacts," says Hershey, "the report basically says there will be no way to mitigate them."

The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center will sponsor a public meeting with a technical presentation by Arc Ecology, regarding the DEIR and our community's response to it, in mid-April. Discussion points will be the issues covered in the DEIR, its methodology, issues it may have missed, issues it may have covered inadequately, and how we can communicate our position on these issues to the Planning Commission.

What you can do to STOP HOME DEPOT:

- Read the Draft Environmental Impact Report
- Send written comments about the DEIR to the Planning Department and the Board of Supervisors
- Attend hearing and testify at the Planning Commission
- Put the No Depot sign in your window
- Tell your friends and neighbors to become involved
- Donate to Arc Ecology Technical Fund C/O BHNC
- Join the No Depot email list to keep up with late breaking developments. Send an email to rmorgan@bhnc.org to subscribe.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL RON MORGAN AT THE HOME DEPOT HOTLINE, 206-2140 x155 ■

The New Bernal Journal

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sored by the
Bernal Heights Neighborhood
Center.

It is dedicated to providing the
people of Bernal Heights with
their community's news, ideas,
issues and events which support
the center mission:

To preserve and enhance the eth-
nic, cultural and economic diver-
sity and well-being of the Bernal
Heights community. We work to
build a strong community for all,
with a focus on the needs of low
and moderate-income people.
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to support and increase opportu-
nities for seniors, youth and oth-
ers most at-risk; by preserving
and expanding access to afford-
able housing; and by building
the neighborhood's power and
capacity to achieve these goals.
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of essential services, a builder of
community, and a force for
organizing neighborhood
change.

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nbj@bhnc.org



A Message from the Executive Director of the BHNC

Dear Neighbors,

As the war continues to build and lives are lost, as billions of dollars are wasted on this fictitious and ill-conceived war, and as cities and states lose money to fund their essential services, I sit here anxiously awaiting the unnecessary killing and violence to stop.

Locally we are seeing community safety nets torn apart due to lack of funding and budget cuts. Neighbors are confused and are being pitted against each other as the lies on TV continue to mislead us. And we witness more pink slips distributed every day.

Despite all of this, we continue to struggle to keep our heads up, march in the streets to renounce the war, and celebrate 10 years since the passing of Cesar Chavez who stood for non-violent resolution to problems and struggles and never surrendered.

In the face of these turbulent times we continue to build the Bernal safety net responding to our community's challenges and problems with the same fervor that started the organization 25 years ago. We will celebrate this success with a two day celebration scheduled for Thursday, October 16, and Sunday, October 19, 2003. Mark your calendars and plan on being with us as we recognize this significant milestone. If you would like to get involved in the planning of the events let me know. Our next meeting is on April 22, 2003.

Inside this issue you'll see neighbors are still planning as they did 25 years ago so as to maintain the character along Mission Street and fighting to stop Home Depot and Corporate America from taking over Bayshore Boulevard and negatively impacting Bernal Heights. The BHNC wants to be 1000 strong in 2003. Read about the benefits of BHNC membership, tear out the coupon and be a part of this community force.

Please join me in thanking a few individuals and organizations for their contribution to the neighborhood. Edi Berton, for her invaluable assistance on the NBJ; Supervisor Tom Ammiano & Captain Dillon for their response to the Wright Street assault; Reverend Lonna Lee & the Ocean Avenue Presbyterian Church for hosting a recent fundraiser for our GMC youth center in the Excelsior; and Andy Scott & the Mission YMCA for 50 years of service to our children and families in Bernal, Excelsior & surrounding communities.

And remember, it's Membership time! Please join me as a dues paying member of the BHNC. 1000 strong in 2003!

Sincerely,

Mauricio E. Vela
Executive Director & Bernal resident

Letter to the Editor from District 11 Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval

Note: We received this letter from Supervisor Sandoval on March 7th before the War had begun.--Ed.

Lots of people complain that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors should stay out of foreign affairs and stick to local issues. Before I was elected, I was one of those people. But as I have learned more about our City, I realize that many issues of international importance also have great local significance. I believe that is the case with pending war with Iraq.

For example, did you know that when the war begins the police plan to put all of their officers on twelve-hour shifts? The overtime bill alone for the 2000 officers in the department will be huge. A bigger impact still is that many police officers will be removed from our neighborhoods. Your friendly neighborhood beat cop will be temporarily shifted to protect the City core and its landmarks from possible terrorist attack. All over our City, we will have to spend public resources on extra police officers, sheriff deputies, fire fighters, and other public safety personnel.

Or how about this: have you noticed the empty and boarded up store fronts at SFO? People are still not flying after September 11 and small businesses and many family run shops at the airport are getting hurt. A war promises to make it worse. During the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the airport lost millions in revenue. In the twelve months following the outbreak of war, it is estimated that SFO will lose about \$10 million. Even the shoe shine guys are complaining about the downturn.

The City's hotel industry and restaurant industry will also be hurt. Many hotels already have very low occupancy rates and the dot-com bust emptied many restaurants. That translates into fewer jobs for people at the lower end of the economic ladder, people like housekeepers and dishwashers and custodians. In addition, thousands of small business that contract with restaurants and hotels will suffer, everyone from the local fisherman supplying fresh fish to restaurants to florists who bring fresh flowers to the hotels to taxi drivers who drive happy tourists from one place to another. Each one of these unemployed individuals, and their families, will be without health care, resulting in more expensive visits to the City's emergency room at General Hospital.

We all know that San Francisco's economy is now based on tourism. But what we sometimes forget is that the City's budget heavily relies on tourist dollars. The hotel tax, for example, brings in millions of dollars for the City's arts and cultural programs. Fewer tourists spending money on a meal means less sales tax revenue for the City. Add all of the above costs to the \$350 million City deficit we already have and you can be sure that an arts program will disappear somewhere, and a library or a pool will close in some neighborhood.

Every city in California, large or small, is facing budget cuts. Seniors are paying skyrocketing costs for prescription drugs. Spending on education is being reduced. Roads are going unpaved. Each of these has an impact on us. Meanwhile, the U.S. offered Turkey \$30 billion for the use of that country's military bases. I listened closely to President George Bush's recent prime time press conference. I did not hear the President mention any kind of assistance to local jurisdictions. Until that happens, I will continue to tell people that a war with Iraq is very much a local issue.

Correction:

Last issue we printed a large list of all of the BHNC Membership and, regrettably, there were omissions. Here are the names we missed:

Ximena Delgado	Susan Sullivan
Lynn Gerber	Rosa Guevara
Derek Stordahl	Andrew Levin
Margret Suden	Edward Schiffer
Richard Hartnack	Lawrence Souza

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BHNC Goal: 1000 Strong in 2003!

by Adam Kinsey

In the extraordinary political times since September 11th and the economic collapse of the Dot-Com bubble, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center has seen a continuing rise in its membership. At the end of December 2002, BHNC's base stood at 810, up 17% from our 2001 numbers. With 2003 being its twenty-fifth year of service, the Community Center has a goal of increasing its membership to 1,000 people by December.

"I think our growth, even during difficult times like these, is just a mirror of our work's importance to the community," said Mauricio Vela, Executive Director of the BHNC. "What with this war going on and the economy being uncertain, there's a lot of emotions, and people want to make sure that what's close to them is stable. At the end of the day, the neighborhood is where we come back to. This is our home, our safety net, and our neighbors are who we live with...people want to make sure their home's taken care of."

BHNC offers a wide array of services to the community's seniors and youth. It provides affordable housing for those who need it most, support around affordable home repair, and, when necessary, a base from which neighborhood grassroots campaigns can be conducted. This year, BHNC starts work on thirty-six apartments for seniors in the Excelsior District (slated to be finished December 2004), continues its opposition to a proposed Home Depot megastore on Bayshore Boulevard, and is joining together with residents and merchants of the Mission Street corridor hemming Bernal Hill to plan for a future that is inclusive and positive. In addition, the Center continues providing daily meals for seniors, in-home support for elders that are frail and at-risk, and employment and violence-prevention services for the community's young people.

BHNC's membership is more than a crucial part of the organization's funding. The Center was founded by neighbors twenty-five years ago and community mem-

bers still make up its staff, event and service volunteers and leadership. Members vote for the BHNC's Board of Directors, sit on that Board, and provide guidance and feedback on the Center's successes and failures. In addition, BHNC members receive:

- Free admission to most BHNC-sponsored events
- Discounts on BHNC room rentals
- Discounts on senior activities, including Reno trips, outings and special events
- Acknowledgement in BHNC's Annual Report and the New Bernal Journal

For many Bernal Heights residents and workers, the most important part of membership is voting privileges at the annual Community Congress. At this event, BHNC's membership discusses the issues facing the community and guides the Center in its agenda for the coming year, as well as electing new members to the Board. This year's Congress is scheduled for Saturday, June 14th.

It's in times like these that BHNC is most important. The Center has been here for a quarter-of-a-century. It provides stability and support, as well as new ideas and a place to make them happen. Come join those who have joined the BHNC...member-led, community-supported for twenty-five years.

To renew your membership in the BHNC or to become a new member, simply send in the tear-sheet on this page. ■

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100-249 Neighborhood Center Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Neighborhood Center Sponsor |
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Name of employer _____

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Other Ways You Can Help!

■ Make a United Way Donor Choice gift. Just fill in BHNC's code #928683 on the United Way pledge form.

■ For federal workers, the Combined Federal Campaign is the program through which you designate your United Way gift.

■ Multiply your gift with a matching contribution from your employer.

■ Donate used items to our thrift store, Gifts on the Hill, 513 Cortland Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110

■ Donate resale items to Community Thrift Store, Valencia between 17th and 18th Streets, and designate BHNC (acct# 243) as the beneficiary.

■ When you shop at Cole Hardware, Mission and 29th Street, tell them you want BHNC (acct# 515) to get 10% from your purchase.

■ Consider including the BHNC in your estate planning. Call (415) 206-2140, ex. 161 to discuss how.



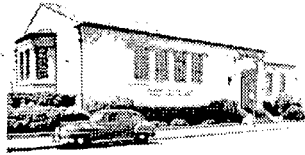
photo by Ron Morgan

Recycle, compost, garbage cans

Workers assemble new rolling garbage, recycling, and garbage cans along Richland Avenue. The new waste disposal system will reduce San Francisco's waste contribution to bulging local land-fills. However, residents of streets such as Santa Marina and Manchester are having a difficult time dealing with storing the extra cans and maneuvering them down long flights of narrow stairs to the curb.

What's New at the Library?

By Lisa Dunseth, Branch Manager
Bernal Heights Branch Library



New magazine subscriptions began arriving in January. A few of the new titles include: ADBUSTERS the Canadian "Journal of the Mental Environment"; HOLA! the Spanish language movie-star-mag; THE WEEK "All You Need To Know About Everything That Matters"; YOGA JOURNAL to get healthy and centered; and ZINE GUIDE "The Ultimate Independent Resource Guide". We are also subscribing to THE PHILIPPINE NEWS (weekly) and SING TAO DAILY (Chinese language newspaper.)

On Tuesday, March 11 we hosted a screening of the award winning documentary film BARBIE NATION. Local filmmakers Susan Stern and Trish Harrington were present and discussed the film afterwards with an appreciative audience. This was the first in a series entitled BEST OF BERNAL, which will feature the talent of our neighbors on the hill. If you have any suggestions for future programs please let us know.

We'll be hosting WORD FOR WORD on Wednesday, May 7th at 4:00 p.m. They'll be performing STORIES BY SANDRA CISNEROS. If you've never seen this talented theater group "bring literature to life" you must take advantage of this opportunity. Their unique staging and presentation of the text, which includes all of the "he says" and "she says", will not disappoint.

The second in our BEST OF BERNAL series will be on Tuesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. We'll screen THE CASE OF THE LEGLESS VETERAN: JAMES KUTCHER, a documentary film by Howard Petrick, about a WWII veteran who was persecuted during the McCarthy era because of his political beliefs. A discussion with the filmmaker will follow.

The following week, on Tuesday, May 20th at 7 p.m. we'll be hosting a POETRY READING with Grace Marie Grafton, friends and students.

All programs at the library are free and sponsored by the Friends and Foundation.

The library is located at 500 Cortland Avenue. Call 355-2810 for more information. ■

Letter from Captain Kevin Dillon, Ingleside Police Station

Greetings from Ingleside Police Station. Wright Street in Bernal Heights was the location of a terrible assault committed by a stranger on a resident who was nine months pregnant. The attack occurred during the day. The suspect has a history of mental problems and may have been abusing recreational drugs prior to this incident. Several neighbors called the police and reported the man ringing doorbells and acting strangely. The police unit that would have been patrolling the immediate area had on-viewed a domestic violence incident on the street and took the parties to Ingleside Station to book the aggressor and write their report. As a result units were dispatched from other areas of the district and there was a delay. The suspect was eventually located, detained for a 72 hour commitment based on his mental state and transported to San Francisco General Hospital. Meanwhile medical units were called to the victim's residence after she was found by her husband. Her injuries were initially thought to be caused by an accident and the police were not advised.

At SFGH a nurse treating the victim walked out into the hallway and happened to see the Ingleside Officers standing with the man detained for a mental evaluation. She noticed that the shade of purple paint on his clothes matched the shade she had observed on the victim in the trauma room. She made the connection and advised our officers. An investigator and a Crime Scene Unit were brought in immediately to collect evidence and coordinate the investigation. The suspect confessed to the crimes and is being held on a five million dollar bail. The victim's baby was delivered when she reached the hospital. Despite her very serious injuries the victim has regained consciousness and has been able to spend time with her daughter. We are all pleased that she has made substantial progress in such a short period of time.

Despite the initial reports that the suspect was homeless, we know that he has been living in a home in the Mt. Davidson area for the last three months. We have not been able to determine any connection between him and any residents or locations in the Bernal Heights area.

Besides the physical trauma for the victim this incident has caused emotional trauma for her family, the larger Bernal Heights community and the firefighters and police officers who were involved in this incident. I have personally spoken with all of the police officers and two of the firefighters and all have been affected by this incident. Realizing that the community needed the opportunity to come together to discuss and hear information regarding this crime, Supervisor Tom Ammiano contacted Mauricio Vela from the Bernal Heights Community Center and together they organized a community meeting one week after the incident. The meeting was well attended and people left with a better understanding of what happened. Inspector Sally DeHaven, from the Police Department Hate Crimes Unit appealed to witnesses to contact her with their information. For any of you who have any information and have not yet been contacted, you can reach Inspector DeHaven at (415) 553-1133.

Project SAFE representatives also attended the meeting. They will help interested residents set up neighborhood watch programs. They canvassed the neighborhood with flyers on the day after this meeting. Anyone interested in setting up a program on their block should contact Jon Shepherd, who is a crime prevention specialist for SAFE. The phone number is (415) 673-SAFE. Yes, the victim does have a name, but I have omitted that information out of respect for her privacy. ■

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Cleaner, Greener Mission Street

By Jaime Ross

A cleaner and greener Mission Street is slowly becoming a reality thanks to members of the Northwest Bernal Alliance.

On Feb 28th members of the Northwest Bernal Alliance (NWBA) along with Mohammed Nuru, Dir. of DPW/Street Environmental Services; Ernie Easterday District Supervisor/ Street Environmental Services; Paul Sacamono/Carey Durkee - Department of Urban Forestry; Gia Grant - Clean City Coalition and Ron Morgan/ Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center all took a walk down Mission St to assess the current situation.

Several issues needed immediate attention like the irregular sidewalk at 3377 and a sinkhole on the sidewalk outside Pizza Hut. Mohammed noted this and promised to send engineers out to rectify them. Also noted were the neglected and missing trees by Carey Durkee who promised to attend to them.

Ernie Easterday assigned ECO's (Environmental Code Officers) to the corridor. They were out the next day distributing handouts and informational material outlining the responsibilities merchants have with regard to the environment. In a show of support the department steam cleaned and painted all the trash receptacles and lamp posts.

Mission St used to be a wild and dangerous place after sunset but thanks to the Northwest Bernal Alliance's members and Graffiti Removal Program plus the cooperation of Ingleside Police Station it's become attractive to all kinds of businesses.

New restaurants like the Blue Plate, Jasmine Tea House and Rock Soup attract people from all over the City. Then there's Roccopulco Supper Club bringing sophisticated Latin jazz together with fine dining. The Drug Store (a hip second hand place) stays open evenings to take advantage of the late night entertainment crowd.

Northwest Bernal Alliance together with city services and the generosity of the Mission St merchants hope to develop an ongoing program designed to make South of Cesar Chavez litter-free. Our ultimate goal is to come up with a unifying identity that will include our diverse cultures and help make Mission St a pleasant place to shop and dine.

This will be a challenge since Mission Street is a transit corridor. The good news is we already have commitments from merchants and property owners eager to participate. We welcome Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's offer to participate in this effort and yours - email - northwestbernal@aol.com Leave your name and contact info

NWBA meets 7PM the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Coleridge Park Homes <http://www.northwestbernalalliance.homestead.com/index.html> ■



Mohammed Nuru, Director of DPW/Street Environmental Services and Ernie Easterday District Supervisor walk with concerned neighbors on Mission Street

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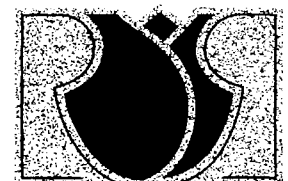
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A Message from District 9 Supervisor Tom Ammiano



Sadly, we are at war. In talking with many friends and residents, I know many of us feel a sense of isolation due to the situation. To reduce the resulting stress, we should come together in our community and our families to talk about our beliefs, feelings and our differences. Toward this end, I have been working with police and organizers of the peace movement, to foster cooperation and minimize conflicts between police, neighborhoods and protestors.

The Hill was visited by a tragic act of violence on Wright Street. I offer my prayers to the family. In conjunction with the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, the Police and Project Safe, I held a community meeting to share information, hear witness testimony and talk about forming a Neighborhood Safety Watch group. Counseling services were also offered to those who needed them.

We are all deeply concerned about with the gang shootings in the Mission. Lieutenant Battaglia, Acting-Captain of Mission Station, has created a new Gang Unit at Mission Station, to be led by Sergeant Kyle Ching. Sergeant Ching and seven other officers have been re-assigned exclusively to this detail to collect reports, pictures and intelligence on past shootings in the neighborhood in order to stem the tide of these violent occurrences.

In response to the pedestrian death that occurred on 24th Street and Potrero, my office shared recommendations from concerned parents with Parking and Traffic. DPT is implementing safety changes around Buena Vista School and the surrounding area. The following are a few recommendations that have been or are being implemented in the near future:

- Installing a ladder style crosswalk at 24th St. and Potrero Ave.,
- Installing pedestrian countdown signals,
- Assigning additional crossing guards on 24th and Potrero, and
- Modernizing signals on Potrero with turn pockets and turn signals.

Parking and Traffic is currently evaluating retiming of signals to allow adequate crossing time with restrictions, changes to signal timing to increase pedestrian crossing time and restricting cross-traffic turns at designated times.

I recently met with the Bernal Cortland Merchants to help them become an official non-profit that will 1) work with DPW to steam clean sidewalks; 2) collaborate with DPT to implement traffic calming, and 3) coordinate with the Tree Council on tree trimming and related beautification projects.

It's a difficult time in the world, our city and our neighborhood. In my next article, I will take time to share with you news about our local budget and several legislative projects I will be announcing shortly, including establishing a Rainy Day Fund for City government, help for schools and a new solar program for residents and businesses. Until then, I hope you and your family are well.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano
District 9

Music on the Hill Charms Bernal with Evening of Song

By Amy Huson

On Sunday March 30th, Music on the Hill presented "An Evening of Song" at St. Kevin's Church in Bernal Heights. This scintillating program featured selections from both the grand opera and light opera traditions

with arias and duets from Tales of Hoffman, La Traviata, La Boheme, plus Kurt Weill's Three Penny Opera and Street Scene.

Bay Area Artists, Michael McCall, tenor, and Karen Hall, soprano, were accompanied by pianist and long time Bernal Heights resident Ava Soifer. Changing direction from the traditional chamber music genre to a recital of operatic selections proved wildly successful. The diversity of repertoire combined with the passionate delivery of these two outstanding singers created a compelling performance. In addition to performing for Music on the Hill in select concerts each season, Ms. Soifer has been Artistic Director of the concert series since its inception in 1998.

The next Music on the Hill concert will be held on Sunday, May 18, 2003 at 7:30 pm. Solstice, a female vocal ensemble, will explore the versatility of the a cappella song, weaving together Eastern European folk songs, secular and sacred music from the Renaissance and the 20th century. Program includes works by Bartok, Kodaly, Orlando di Lasso, Hildegard von Bingen, Thomas Morley, Giovanni da Palestrina. Solstice is Becca Burrington, Krista Enos, Sheryl Kaskovitz, Mari Lockard, Meline Toumani, Kim Warsaw and Sara Webb.

The concert will be held at St. Kevin's Church 704 Cortland Ave. in Bernal Heights. Tickets are \$10 general & \$6 seniors/students. To reserve tickets at the door or for more information call 820-1429, e-mail: mothmuse@aol, or check our website www.MusicOnTheHill.org ■

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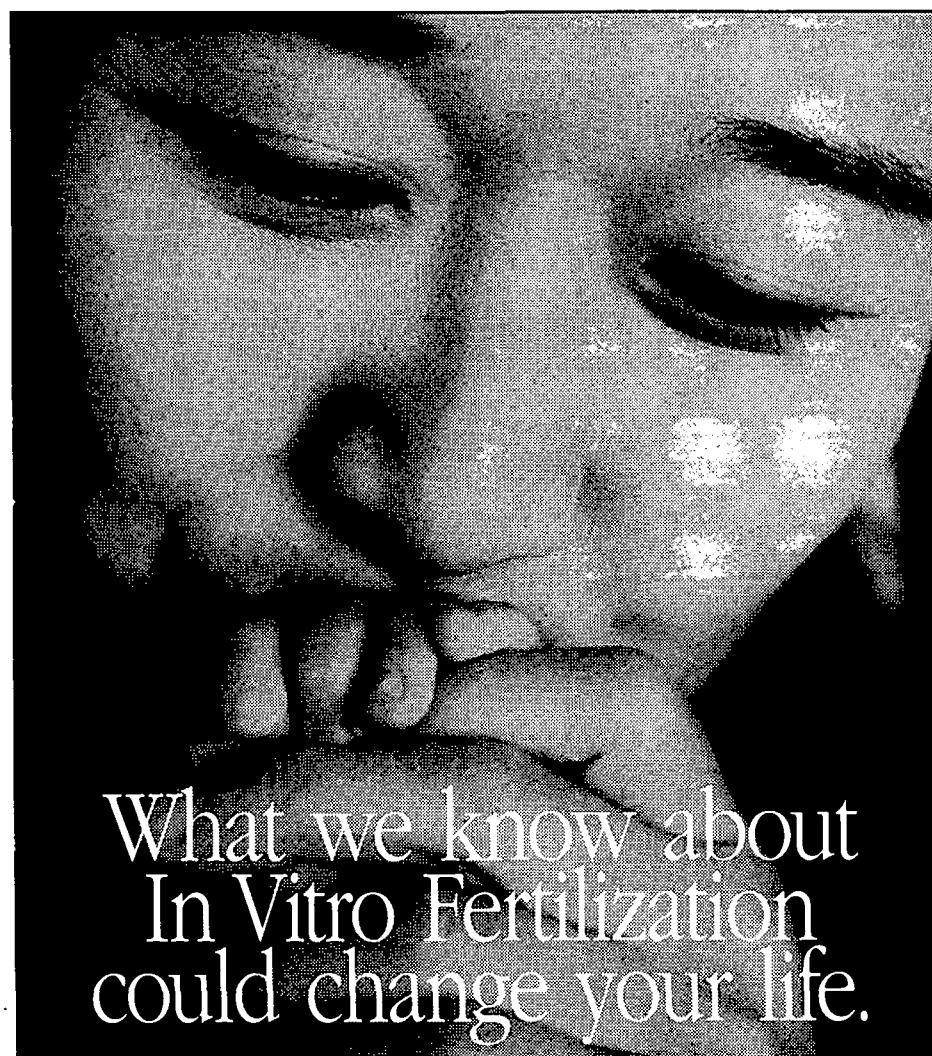
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Bernal Happenings

Holly Park Update

by Eugenie Marek

While SF Recreation & Park Department is adjusting to deep budget cuts, Holly Park renovation funds are secure. The funds come from Propositions A & C, passed in 2000 by city voters, as well as from a Federal Urban Parks Grant that was awarded to our neighborhood. This project is not being shelved, as is happening to some proposed projects in other parks.

However, our project is delayed for other reasons. The completion of final planning details will allow for contract bidding by April 1st, more than six weeks later than expected. According to Judy Mosqueda, acting Project Manager, most of the delay has been around ADA compliance. She also said that, instead of using poured concrete for areas such as the picnic area and playground, the planners want to use decomposed granite, a softer, better-looking and cheaper material. This requires a maintenance commitment from Park/Rec, stretching their budget. An agreement is being worked out.

There is then a four month process before ground-breaking by the contracting company will occur, probably in August. Work will proceed into the rainy months. We can look forward to a Spring completion. Please call Capital Planning Office **558-4039** with questions/comments.

Friends of Holly Park has discussed pedestrian safety with David Valle-Schwenk, school area safety coordinator for DPT. He will oversee an application by Junipero Serra School for funds from the Safe Routes to School Grants Program. This would provide secure crossings around Holly Park for the elementary school and Preschool Center. All children coming to play in the park will benefit. Community support for the application is important. Please contact Friends of Holly Park **826-0236** with questions/comments. ■

South Bernal Living Library and Think Park

Monthly meetings are ongoing at Junipero Serra Child Development Center at 155 Appleton from 4pm-6pm for this exciting project to explore our local natural resources and discover our link to early Bernal Heights. Interested in knowing more? contact Bonnie Ora Sherk, founder of Life Frames, Inc at **206-9710** or bonnieora@alivinglibrary.org. ■



**Jennifer Tucci -
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Jennifer Tucci is a licensed Real Estate Agent and a member of the Brown Bear Realty family, specializing in personalized service in and around the Bernal Heights neighborhood.

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CMA on a Roll! Will host Community Volunteer Awards Reception

By Mike Grafton, Co-President of the Cortland Merchants Association

The Cortland Merchants Association has adopted Cortland Avenue from Bonview to Folsom Street under the auspices of the S.F. Department of Public Works' "Adopt-a-Street" Program. We will be volunteering to assume responsibility for sidewalk Cleaning and neighborhood beautification projects, like the tree well bricks we installed last November.

After an incredibly productive meeting with Supervisor Tom Ammiano, and with his considerable support, we have been in contact with the DPW and the Mayor's Neighborhood Beautification Fund about community projects suggested by the results of our Fiesta on the Hill Community Survey. We have been encouraged to apply for emergency funding and a 2003-4 grant for eight projects along our Cortland Avenue corridor: tree planting and pruning; more tree wells; decorative white lighting in the trees; period style street lights; street pole banners; more park benches and trash receptacles; murals; and a sidewalk cleaning program. Although the application was due on March 31st, approval will not be obtained until June 15th, with funding beginning on July 1st. Please send your letters of support, suggested sources for donations toward the 15% matching fund requirement, or your willingness to volunteer to: Cortland Merchants Association, 322 Cortland Avenue, Suite 20, S.F., CA 94110.

The Cortland Merchants Association will recognize the volunteers who have contributed their time and skills to improve our community at an awards reception on Saturday, May 3rd, from 4 to 7 pm. Guest presenter, Supervisor Tom Ammiano, will present the Volunteer of the Year Award. The reception will be held in the dining room of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. Local musicians will entertain, there will be wine and a "Taste of the Town" assortment of appetizers presented by our local restaurants and cafés. Check the display window at Four Star

The Cortland Merchants Association
Invites you to our
**First Annual Community
Volunteer Award Reception**

Guest Presenter:
Supervisor Tom Ammiano

Music and Wine
"Taste of the Town" by CMA Restaurants and Cafes

Saturday, May 3rd
4 - 7 PM
Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
515 Cortland Ave.

\$10

Tickets on sale at Progressive
Grounds, Wild Side West, Four
Star Video, and Good Life Grocery

Video for the menu. Take the tear-out reminder coupon to Progressive Grounds; Wild Side West; Four Star Video; Good Life Groceries; or any other merchants displaying a "Member - Cortland Merchants Association" window decal to purchase tickets. Ticket sales will be used to estimate portions, so please buy your tickets in advance if possible. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

SFPD Captain Kevin Dillon, Ingleside Police District station commander, attended the March meeting of the CMA. We were reassured to learn that although individual incidents continue to occur, there is no significant pattern of increase in crime related events in our community. We discussed the possibility of posting notifications of all local incidents, along with descriptions of alleged perpetrators, on the CMA website, and once again, Captain Dillon encouraged the membership to immediately notify him at 404-4030 of any non-emergency situation. We were also reminded to call 911 in emergencies, 553-8090 from cell phones.

Please remember to curb your dog! ■

Local Profile: Audrey Howard



by Paul Welch

Local Rockstar: Audrey Howard is best known to loyal patrons of Wild Side West, as a bartender with an easy laugh and a sympathetic ear.

She is also a talented musician who has been garnering recognition in the local scene. She has already released two full length albums, "Mischief" (2000), a solo project, and "Phase" (2001), with her then-current band Strumpet.

I caught her show at the Bazaar Cafe on March 5th, where she was performing in the Gay, Lesbian, BI, Transgender Song Writer's Festival. She performed solo, with just her acoustic guitar, and the effect was powerful. Audrey has a disarming stage presence; she often appears slightly shy and has a way of using humor to put the audience (and herself it seems) at ease. But as soon as the power cords start blaring, all that changes, and Audrey becomes a force in her own element. Her voice was strong and emotionally charged, filling up the intimate venue. Her songs ranged from the political ("Chatter", about opting out of media bombardment) to the personal "So, You're in Love" (in the best tradition of the genre). Says Howard, "I love performing. I love sharing my passion with an audience and losing myself in the moment. I always enjoy catching the audience off-guard and totally rocking their worlds." I encourage anyone with a love of straightforward, heartfelt music to go see Audrey Howard and get their world rocked.

Audrey currently performs both with her rock band and as a solo artist. She is recording a full-length album of new material, to be released in spring 2003. check out <http://www.audreyhoward.net> coming soon

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Firestone: 2800 Geary, 567-3311
Kragen: 3855 Geary, 668-5241
T&R76-1: 3501 Geary, 752-3968

Pacific Heights & Western Addition

Chevron: 2500 California, 567-1136

South of Market

Firestone: 1501 Mission St., 621-4650
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Mark Morris Tires: 1401 Mission, 863-3939
Quality Tune-Up: 490 S. Van Ness, 431-6550
SF Honda: 10 S. Van Ness, 441-2000

Potrero Hill & Mission Bay

R + W 76: 800 Folsom, 982-2836
S&C Ford: 211 Industrial, 553-4400

Marina & Cow Hollow

Kragen: 2246 Lombard, 563-4200

Portola & Visitacion Valley

Kragen: 2500 San Bruno, 656-0696
Portola Auto: 2780 San Bruno, 468-5175
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Sunset & Parkside

Kragen: 2150 Taraval, 682-9177
Chevron: 1890 19th Ave., 731-2733
Mark's Unocal 76: 1700 Noriega, 566-0440

North Beach & Telegraph Hill

Port of SF: China Basin @ Pier 52/54, 274-0565
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Mission & Bernal Heights

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Bayview & Hunters Point

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Kragen: 1150 Ocean, 585-9800
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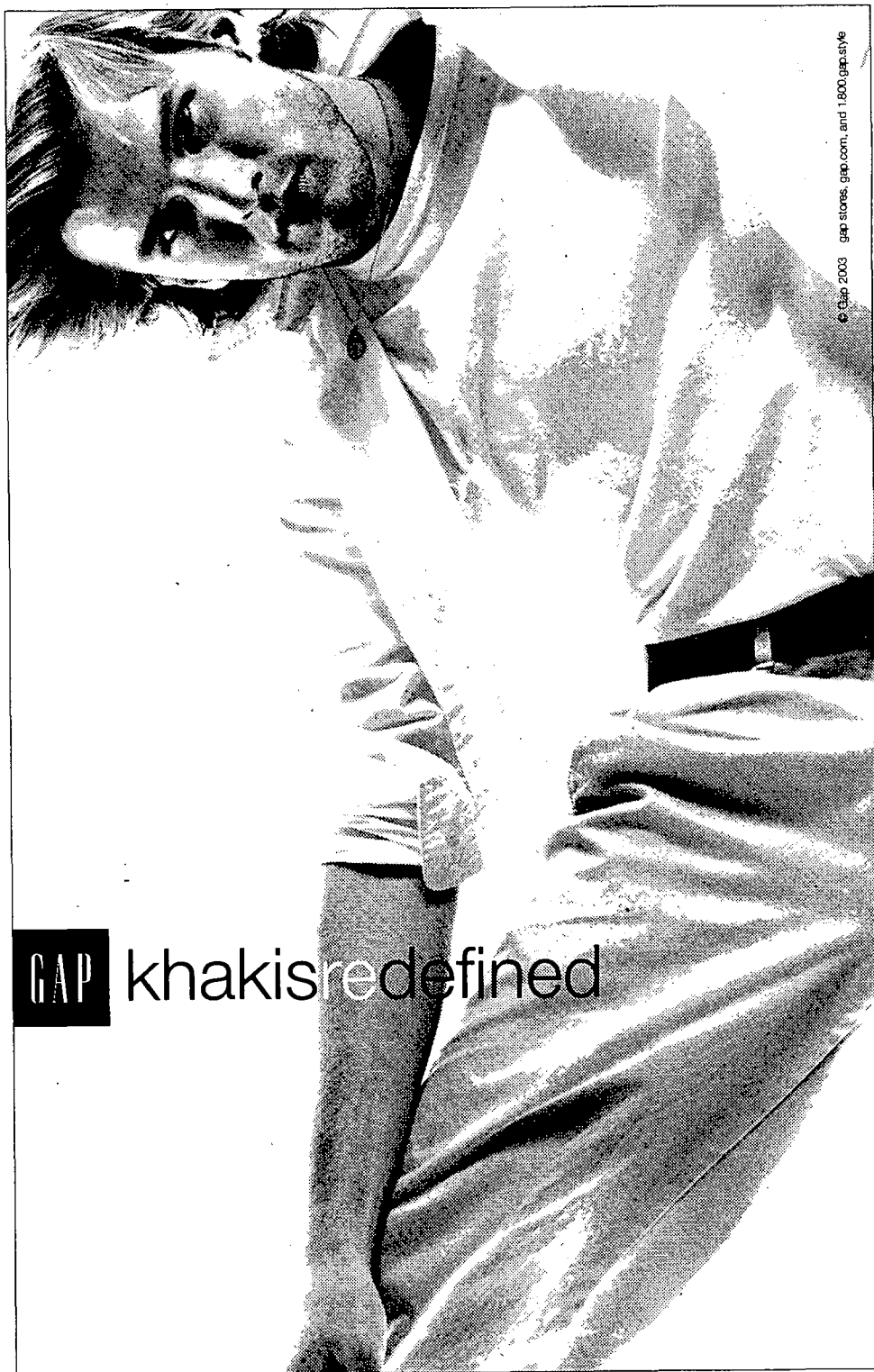
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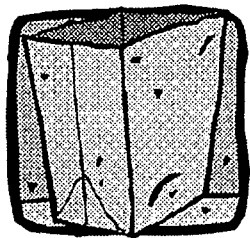
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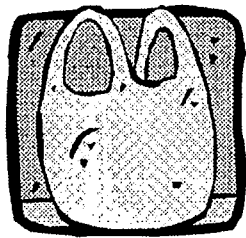


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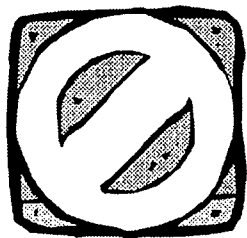
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A Big Thanks to All BHNC Volunteers: We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Thanks to all those who volunteered to make 2003 a stellar year for the BHNC. You are all local heroes! A special thanks to the all-volunteer BHNC Board for their continuing commitment to our mission of excellence.

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Thank
You!

Annual Community Blood Drive

It's time again for the Annual Community Blood Drive at St. Kevin's. The site is the Religion Center at the corner of Jarboe and Anderson Streets, from 9AM to 1 PM. The date is Sunday, May 4th, 2003. The need for blood is ongoing. Donating blood takes only an hour of your time. You could be saving someone's life. The needy patients of the Bay Area will thank you for your generosity. Donors must bring an ID, be in reasonable health, weigh more than 110 pounds and be at least 17 years old.

APRIL 27 - MAY 4 IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK.

We would like to give a special thanks to all of our 2002-3 Volunteers who have given their time and energy to the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

Your dedication and commitment has truly made a difference to our community.

We would like to invite all volunteers to our Annual Volunteer Appreciation LUAU Brunch!

On Sunday, May 4, 2003
From 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Come Join us for pinapples, music, great food and more!



Ages 5 - 17

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Youth Services Update

Playaz Ball

By Lauren Bell

On March 1, 2003, the United Playaz, the BHNC's Violence and Gang Prevention program, threw their 1st Annual "Playaz Ball." Youth and adult allies coordinated the event with the purpose of bringing older alumni and new members together to celebrate eight years of working for and with the community. In fact, it brought together 300 people who were either directly or indirectly affected by the work of the program, it also peacefully gathered youth from different sets and turfs. It was also a special opportunity to highlight specific individuals whose time and efforts made valuable contributions not just to the United Playaz program, but also to youth who benefit through connections with the program's many strong

and caring peer and adult role models. Lastly, it gave youth a chance to "Dress to Impress" and per usual they impressed us with their boldness, their charm, their laughter and their maturity.

The event was made possible through the generosity of the Youth Leadership Institute's, Youth Initiated Project's (YIP) program. It was also made possible by the young people who met regularly to conceptualize the event, hammered out the details, and who wrote and presented a winning proposal to the YIP Board.

The United Playaz would like to acknowledge the help, respect and love that so many people gave to make the Ball a huge success. If you would like more information on the United Playaz, please call 206-2140x.139. If you would like more information on the Youth Leadership Institute, they can be reached at 836-9160. Peace. ■



Outer Mission Community Support Network Extends Services to Youth

by Kim Coshnear

The Outer Mission Community Support Network is making great progress. We have streamlined our information-gathering methods so we can be sure that we are able to demonstrate our hard work. All of our collaborators can now use the same forms, which is sure to make us an efficient, well-oiled network with easy and frequent communication to accommodate our growing numbers (60 youth so far).

Our new Case Management Coordinator, Kim Coshnear, is conducting confidential and collaborative case reviews with our caring, and insightful case managers who are uniquely gifted at creating fast and strong bonds with their kids. Our case managers recog-

nize the privilege of a child's trust and they take it very seriously, which can result in carrying a lot of stress. To deal with stress and to address a variety of other issues, the OMCSN offers professional development trainings. Fawn Downs from Comprehensive Child Crisis, presented at the last meeting when the group discussed the importance of understanding our work within the context of a caring community, and that can not be solely responsible for attending to our client's intense and complex circumstances.

The caring community includes our current collaborative partners: Mission YMCA, Leonard R. Flynn Elementary School, Paul Revere Elementary School, SF Boys and Girls Club, Excelsior Unit, and Mission Neighborhood Centers to name a few. In an effort to build empathy and self esteem, OMCSN Case Managers Julie Orellana and Rasan Queen will be collaborating with Paul Revere Elementary School and Excelsior Youth Center to start a peer mentoring program in which teens will be trained to address anger management and bully protection strategies to children. They will also provide social and recreational activities so that children can have fun while they are learning to make healthier and safer decisions. ■

If you are a Job Seeker between the ages of 16 - 24 the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Youth Employment Service will have its 3rd Job Fair scheduled for Thursday May 15th 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center 515 Cortland Avenue.

We are expecting employers from private and non-private sectors, and many young adults seeking employment and employment related information. If you would like to participate in this event by tabling this event please contact Keith Anderson Job

Developer at (415) 206-2140 ext. 146



District 9 Community Clean Team Volunteers Needed!



Community Day
Saturday, May 3, 2003
Firehouse
19th Street & Folsom

Volunteer in the Parks
Saturday, May 10, 2003
Rolph Playground
26th Street & Hampshire

School Day
Saturday, May 17, 2003
Horace Mann Middle School
23rd Street & Bartlett

Volunteers will work throughout District 9
Events run from 9:00 to noon

Keep San Francisco Clean, Green, and Beautiful!
For more information or to volunteer:
508-0050/www.sfcleancity.com

*Events Sponsored by the Department of Public Works and
The San Francisco Clean City Coalition, in partnership with:
Norcal Waste Systems, Inc., Recreation and Park Department, San
Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG), Mayor's Office of
Business and Economic Development, Department of the Environment,
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, Pre-Trial Diversion Program*



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We're Changing the Look of the Neighborhood...

The children and staff of the Junipero Serra Child Development Center invite you to a pot luck brunch on May 17th from 10AM-12 Noon at the community room at the JSCDC at 155 Appleton.

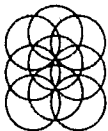
We will discuss the possibility of creating a community nature walk to include the College Hill Reservoir and Holly Park and a Digital Gateway. All, plus more, to be included in our Living Library (See article in Bernal Happenings, p.7)

Please join us for a fun and exciting opportunity for our neighborhood.

For more information, call Kathy at 920-5138 or Bonnie at 206-9710. Also visit our Living Library website at www.alivinglibrary.org.



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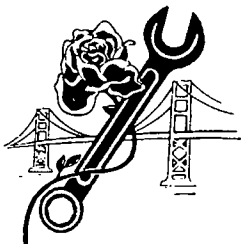
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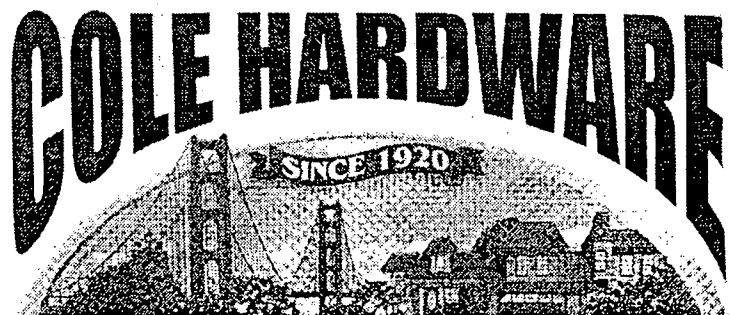
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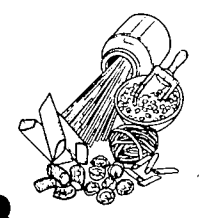
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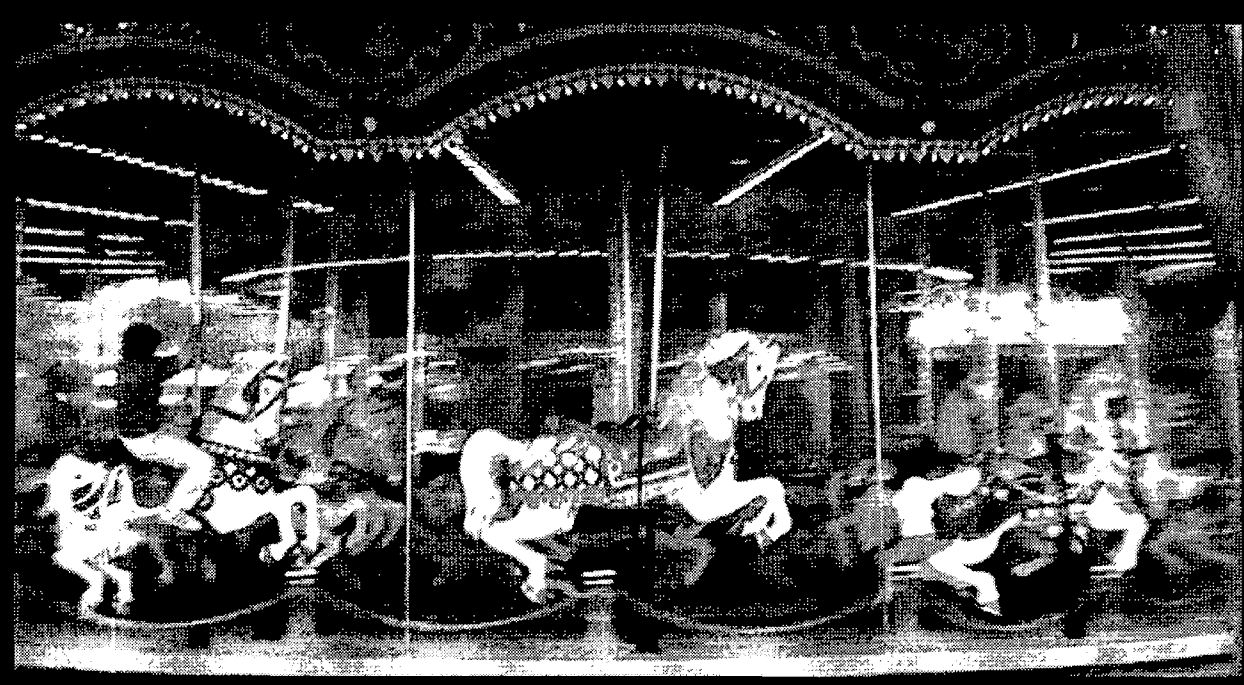
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Obituaries

**Gavina Lorenzo
Aurelio
May 30, 1912-March
13, 2003**

By Roland Soriano

Gavina was a devoted volunteer and member of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center since the very beginning of senior services. She volunteered at the senior congregate meal program, serving lunches to seniors and cleaning up after lunch. She also supported us in our time of need, going to the Civic Center and rally for senior money.

She was also very involved with her family and loved going to bingo at churches and playing majong with her fellow seniors until closing time at the BHNC.

Gavina's loving personality and that unique smile she graced us with will be missed. She left behind a lot of friends and family that loves her very much. May her spirit shine on within us all.



**Salvador Salazar
January 28th, 1947-
February 14th, 2003**

Salvador Salazar was born on January 28th, 1947 in San Francisco. He was the eldest son to Manuel (deceased) and Manuela Salazar. He was the devoted husband of 25 years to Patricia Salazar and the father of Leona, Daniel, Sal Jr., Andrew, Ricky, Zereyna, Patrick, and Kristopher. He was the proud grandfather of Anthony, Dora, Armando, Raelenna, Ariana, Noah, and Hannah. A well loved and respected brother of Lupe, Rosie, Mickie, Manuel (deceased), Delia, Susie, Juan, and Orlando.

He grew up in the Bernal Heights area and moved to Southern California in 1978. Sal was a smart, self educated Jack of All Trades, and became a certified electrician after much hard work and dedication. He worked for the University of Irvine for 13 years and enjoyed what he did. Chava was a laid back, easy going, loving man. He was a talented conga player and had a passion for fishing. He has touched many lives and will be greatly missed and remembered by all who were blessed to have known him.



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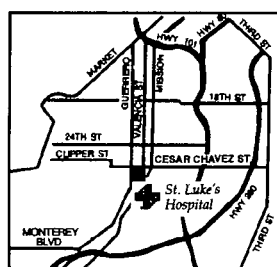
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BHNC Senior Services Center, the First 10 years...

By Julia Korsunsky

Many, many years ago there was a lunch program for the seniors, that took place three times a week at Saint Kevin's church. The seniors were gathering to share a meal, and oftentimes sharing was exactly what they did, because sometimes there wasn't enough food for everyone, says Vernon Terrell, one of the first seniors to come to the lunch program. Around that time there was a talk of opening up a neighborhood center in the Bernal Heights area, so that the neighbors could have a "second home" away from home.

In 1981, when the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center was built, the senior lunch program was transferred there, and it soon became a 5 times a week event. The On Lok 30th street Senior Services was the means of food delivery as soon as the center was open. On Lok's tireless dedication was appreciated by all, BHNC's seniors and senior staff. In the beginning, staff consisted of Senior Services Director -- Mary Foy, an activity leader -- Vicky Victoria and a large amount of senior volunteers, helping with various tasks, such as food assistance programs, Brown Bag, arts and crafts, and activities. With time, the Senior Center attracted more and more people to its' services and events, it became a senior recreational and activity center, consisting but not limited to events such as BINGO games, outings, congregation meals and educational events.

This was a long journey that took 10 years to unravel and become a functional social gathering of friends and acquaintances, where everyone shares the same

passion for activities, conversations, complete and complex meals and of course exercise and game playing.

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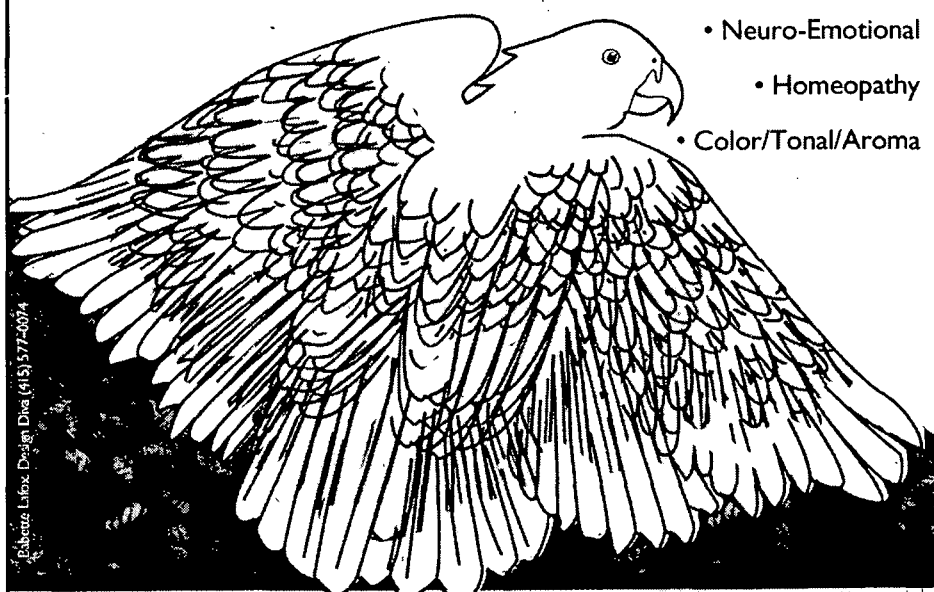
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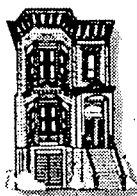
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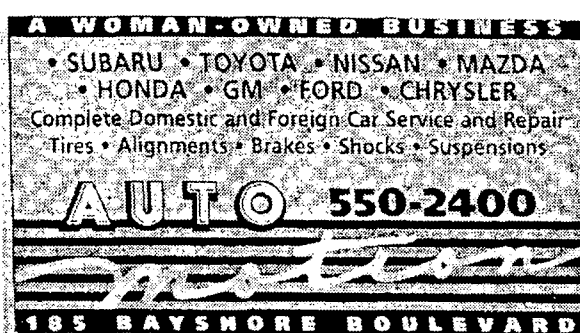
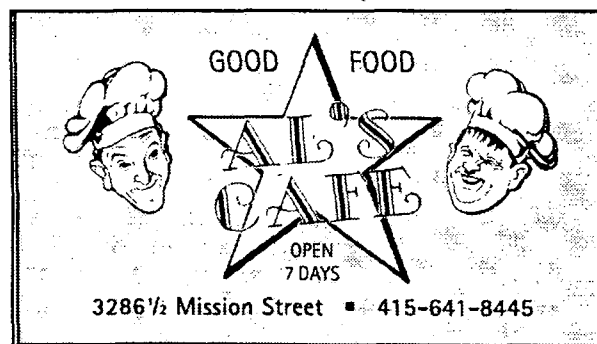
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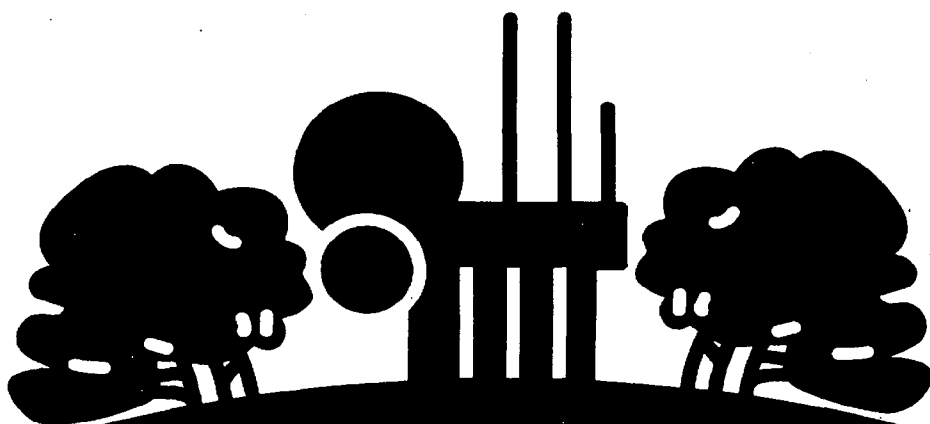
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